

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action mailed March 7, 2006. While the Applicant still maintains that all the previously pending claims should be allowable, and traverses all rejections, in order to facilitate the speedy issue of this case, the Applicant has cancelled certain claims, rewritten other indicated-allowable claims in independent form, and changed the dependence of some claims. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the issue of a notice of allowance.

Claims 2-11, 14-17, 20-21, 23, 25, and 27-33 are now pending in the case.

Claims 2-4, 7, 8, 25, and 27-33 have been amended.

Claims 34-37 have been added.

Claim Cancellation Oversight

It has come to the Applicant's attention that claims 12, 13, 18-22, 24-27 were cancelled in a Preliminary Amendment filed March 27, 2002. Both the Applicant and the Examiner have since not noticed this cancellation, and the claims have been examined, and argued, as if still pending. Indeed claims 20 and 21 are currently allowed and claims 25 and 27 were previously allowed (an explanation as to why these claims are believed to still be allowable is provided below).

To address the previous cancellation, the Applicant has corrected the status identifiers of claims 12, 13, 18-22, and 24-27 to reflect their cancelled status. Further, the Applicant has added claims 34-37 which correspond to now cancelled claims 20, 21, 25 and 27 (in effect a renumbering of the indicated allowable claims.)

The Applicant hopes this remedies the oversight while preserving the allowance of the indicated allowable claims.

Allowed Claims

At paragraphs 12 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated claims 9-11, 14-17, 20-21 and 23 are allowed.

At paragraph 11 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated claims 3-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Applicant has amended claims 3 and 4 to be independent claims. Claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 4. Accordingly, claims 3-6 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

At paragraph 13 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 28-33 would be allowable if the objection to the claims were overcome. At paragraph 3 of the Office Action the claims were objected to as being unclear. The Applicant has amended the claims similar to the Examiner's suggestion (the Examiner suggested replacing "the" with "a"; to be even more clear, the Applicant replaced "the" with "a final"). Accordingly, claims 28-33 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Allowability of Claims 25 and 27 (now pending as claims 36 and 37)

The Applicant respectfully urges that the allowance of claims 25 and 27 (now pending as claims 36 and 37) be reinstated. In the First Office Action, mailed Sept. 19, 2005, claims 25 and 27 were allowed. At that time, the claims referenced the limitations of allowed claims 9 and 14. In the previous Amendment, mailed Dec. 19, 2005, the Applicant rewrote these claims to explicitly list the limitations of allowed claims 9 and 14, to improve clarity. In the present Office Action, the Examiner has withdrawn the allowance of claims 25 and 27 (now pending as claims 36 and 37). The Applicant respectfully urges that these claims are still allowable. Rather than referencing another claim, the claims now explicitly list the limitation of the other claim. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully urges that claims 25 and 27 (now pending as claims 36 and 37) are still allowable.

Request for Interview if there are Outstanding Issues

The Applicant believes that, in light of the Examiner's comments, the case should now be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner disagrees and believes there are any outstanding issues that may delay the issue of a notice of allowance, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner telephonically contact the Applicant's attorney at 617-951-2500. The Applicant hopes that any outstanding issues may be addressed via a telephonic Interview and possibly an Examiner Amendment.

All independent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

All dependent claims are believed to be dependent from allowable independent claims.

The Applicant respectfully solicits favorable action.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,



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